How to Measure and Install a Glass Block Window

Installation Tools and Materials: hammer, crowbar, hacksaw, wood shims, safety glasses, and a helper

For a brick opening add: fine mix mortar or glass block mix, small mortar trowel. for a wood frame opening add: silicone caulk, caulk gun.

1 Measuring and choosing the correct size glass block window

From the outside, measure the opening width and height as if the existing window frame were already removed from the opening. When choosing the window size, go down to the nearest even numbered inch.

For example, if the opening measures 31 1/4" x 16 1/2", your window size to order would be 30" x 16".

IPS glass block windows can be made in any size on the even numbered inch.

The window sizes, on the even numbered inch needed for my job are as follows:

qty	W x H	circle one	pattern	location
	x	vented or solid		
	x	vented or solid		
	x	vented or solid		
	x	vented or solid		
	x	vented or solid		

2 Carefully remove the old window

If possible, remove the glass sashes or panels before the demolition of the frame.

Use a hacksaw , crowbar and hammer to cut and pry the old window away from the wall opening. Make sure to remove the old fame, completely leaving a flat clean surface.

Remember to wear your safety glasses

3 You're ready to install your new glass block window !

Set the glass block window in the opening. First, from the outside, place a wedge at the bottom corners of the window. Then, on top, from the inside place a shim in the center. Tip: It is best to have a helper inside holding your window in place until the window is wedged in. Center your window in the opening so the space on the top, bottom, and each side is equal. Tap the shims in further so your window fits securely in place.

Tip: Once firmly shimmed you should not be able to move your window Do not tap the glass block to adjust the window in the opening.

4 Masonry or brick opening

Mix mortar according to package directions. It is best to prepare the mortar to the consistency of a spreadable mud. Using the trowel tool, push in the mortar filling the empty space around the perimeter of the Glass block window. Do this procedure from the outside and repeat from the inside making sure that the space between the wall and the window is filled. Once your mortar starts to set, you can remove your wedges and fill in the spaces with leftover mortar . Tip: a good way to check if the mortar is set and the wedges are ready to be pulled is to press your thumb into the mortar joint. If it is difficult to leave an imprint, you are ready to pull your wedges.

Wood frame opening

Use your silicone in the caulking gun to fill the space around the perimeter of the glass block window. Perform this procedure from the outside and repeat from the inside, making sure that the space between the wall and the window is filled. Use your finger to finish the surface area on the silicone joint. Wait 24 hours to allow the silicone to completely set and support your window. Pull your wedges and fill in the spaces left with silicone. IMPORTANT: Do not leave any empty spaces or voids for water to leak into or around your window.

Important ! DO NOT carry pre-assembled windows flat. Always carry vertically.